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FOREIGN PLANT QUARANTINES

Rec'd FEB 8 1926

DEKALB NURSERY BULLETIN

De Kalb Street, Norristown, Pa.

Phone 1597

FEBRUARY, 1926

A MONTHLY VISITOR

Suggestions.— what and when to plant, prune and spray
—and seasonable offerings of the many varieties of Trees,
Hardy Flowers, Hardy Shrubs, grown and distributed by the
DeKalb Nurseries.

CLOSED ON SUNDAY



Adolf Müller
DeKalb Nurseries
Norristown, Pa.



FEBRUARY—In the January Bulletin, in three instances, the printers made the mistake of using the word "Wholesale" instead of "Wholesome." A number of readers called my attention to it soon after the Bulletin was mailed. Mistakes will happen, it seems, but I hope they will not occur again.

It is now none too soon to order trees for spring planting. I have gone through the month of February several times, doing all kinds of work outdoors, ploughing, seeding and planting all sorts of things. I am no weather prophet, but if the weather should be fair in February, I will not take time to say "I told you so." We, the whole staff at the nursery, will be planting just as much as we possibly can. Spring time is a time when our work is one continuous rush—and that is the long and short of it.

The sooner trees are planted in spring, the better it is for them. They will have a chance to get rooted while the ground is cool and while there is an abundance of moisture still present. When it is possible to take advantage of favorable planting conditions, it seems to me, we ought to act without delay.

Dormant Roses, planted early, will be in full bloom by June. They will make better growth and produce better flowers than if planted late.

Deciduous trees are best planted before the leaves are out; it is decidedly better to transplant them early. Usually when the robins make their welcome appearance in spring time, they do more to start the planting of trees than any other factor I know of, for as soon as they are seen, Presto!—spring is not far behind—inquiries and orders come in full blast. Now we generally have weather good enough for planting before these heralds of spring appear on the scene.

If hardy flowers such as Iris, Paeonies, Asters and a whole long list of them are planted early, they will bloom the first summer. I am sure we all want things to bloom right away. I do, and if my memory serves me right, everybody else does. The first thing I am asked is "Will this plant bloom this year?"

Annuals are raised from seeds. I consider no garden properly planted unless it contains a few annuals. My preference is a riot of them. They grow easily and are a real pleasure to behold when they come into full bloom. Between flowering shrubs and in every nook and corner plant seeds of annuals, it pays. When summer comes with its hot days and the early blooms of shrubs and roses are over, the annuals fill in colorfully and present an ever welcome sight in the garden.

Again I beg to offer a word of warning at this time of the year, that is, don't cut back the flowering shrubs and thereby ruin the flowers that are now all in bud. Every spring I see men industriously plying the shears and saws, cutting away thousands of branches loaded with buds ready to burst into bloom the first warm days of spring. No person ought to cut a flowering shrub unless he knows what it means.

Flowering shrubs with few exceptions should be cut or pruned *after* they have bloomed.

I wish I had words strong enough to be remembered, because again and again this butchering goes on in the spring, and the finest kinds of flowering shrubs are robbed of their glory of blooming, and it takes another whole year's growth till they bloom again.

If you do not know what to do, ask some one who does know. There are many persons who do. Certainly if you will call up the DeKalb Nursery you will be given the correct advice and without cost.

To me it seems nothing short of a crime, when I see bushes that have come from our nurseries and have grown up till they are nicely developed ready to bloom, and then cut down without rhyme or reason.

There are some few exceptions to this rule, I mean varieties that should be cut before blooming, and should be cut in February or March. They are Altheas, Hydrangeas, low growing Spireas and everblooming Roses, by these I mean Hybrid Teas and June Roses as well as all Polyantha Roses. The latter are popularly known as Baby Ramblers, all of these should be cut back in March.

Cut out all dead wood and cut back strong young shoots to about eight inches from the ground.

The Climbing Roses should not be cut now, they should simply be tied up in an orderly fashion. When they are done blooming and the petals are falling off trim out the old wood, but do not cut any young growth. Strong shoots are called canes and often are mistaken for suckers, they must be saved and let grow. It should be no trouble to distinguish the difference between a tame rose and a wild rose.

Evergreens should be trimmed in March, they will then produce a uniform growth. In evergreens, size of growth is not the only object to develop, many varieties pass through a process of changing colors. Usually the new growth is of a distinctly different color than the mature growth. It is interesting to observe this change.

The young cones of Blue Spruce are of a beautiful rosy pink, and are as attractive as any rose that ever grew. Chinese Arbor Vitae changes from golden yellow to green in summer, and to amber and bronze in winter. Nearly all the colors of flowers seem to touch the needle-like leaves of evergreens sometime during the growing and dormant seasons. In certain varieties, these colorings are more pronounced than in others.

They are always very interesting and entertaining, to get the most out of our associations with the out of doors, one must learn to see as well as see to learn. The desire to know is the most essential thing after all.

Berry Bushes, such as Currants and Gooseberries, Fruit Trees, Shade Trees, Street Trees, should be trimmed now, and if any limbs more than three inches thick are cut off they should be painted so as to protect the wound against the weather.

No matter when trees are trimmed, they just naturally bleed, the sap runs off the ends of branches freshly cut; this causes no permanent injury.

Many times I am called up in reference to trees bleeding due to trimming them. Rest assured that no harm will come of it, they bleed in spite of being painted. Painting, however, serves a good purpose, and that is, after the bleeding stops, it protects the exposed newly cut parts against the actions of the weather until the time comes when these wounds heal over.

Grape vines ought to be cut in February, and if any old or dead wood is present it should be cut away. It is best to size up the whole vine and decide whether it can support two, four or six vines or runners; when this is decided, cut them back to only two eyes. It is best that only a few shoots are raised on one vine, the result will be better and larger fruit and more of it.

In pruning fruit trees, the most essential thing to do is to cut out all suckers, next is to open the top of the trees so that sunlight can reach the center or inside of the tree. The prettiest colored apples, pears or any fruit are those exposed to the sun.

All fruits get their beautiful color from the direct rays of the sun. It is therefore proper to train the tree tops so that the sun can shine on as much of the fruit as possible.

Be sure and spray all fruit trees, whether any insects or fungi are present does not matter, it is good protection against their coming; if possible, spray on warm or calm days.

There are a great many effective spraying solutions on the market now that are reliable, and many firms in the seed and Nursery business carry them in stock.

I would again suggest that consideration be given to the grounds around your home. Every tree and shrub is a distinct addition of refinement. One nicely planted yard is often the cause of a whole neighborhood to follow suit. This thing we call a community pride or civic pride; well what is it? Someone dares to step out of a rut and someone else follows. I am glad the burden of outworn customs no longer hangs heavy on our shoulders.

We believe in the arts of the great out-of-doors, and we absorb and appropriate ideas quickly. What is more, we give free play to our own initiative. Really the future looks great, the dawn of tomorrow will be more rosy and beautiful than that of yesterday.

In closing, I want to thank those who very kindly wrote me such encouraging letters. This means much to me. Sometimes I wonder just whether it is worth while. It is not all dollars and cents that I am after, I want to share with you any knowledge I may have and tell of any pleasure I derive from this work, but I do want to assure myself that these messages are welcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Aug. Miller". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, sweeping horizontal flourish at the end.